



*Forensic Science International: Genetics*  
**Journal Status Report**

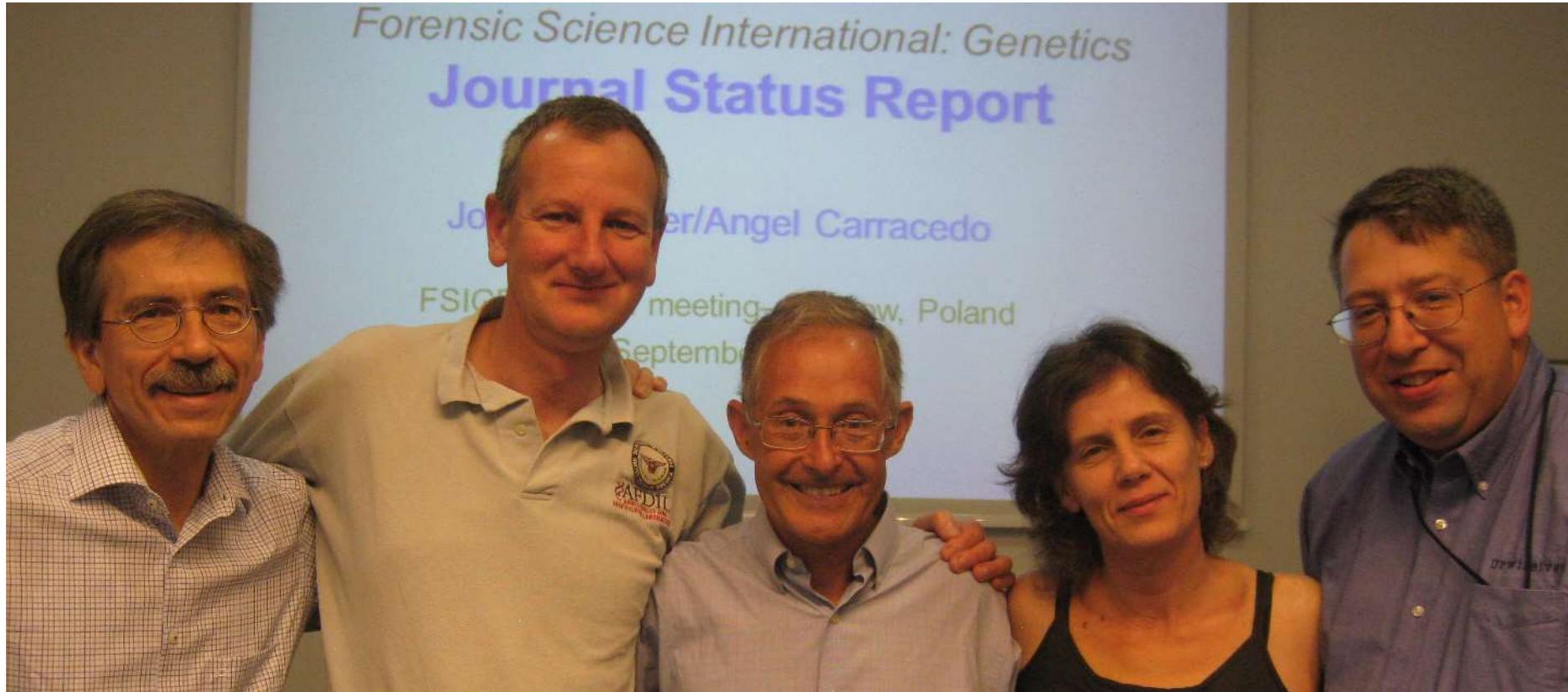
John M. Butler

Associate Editor

ISFG General Assembly – Krakow, Poland

3 September 2015

# Journal Editors



**Peter Schneider**  
(Associate Editor)

**Angel Carracedo**  
(Editor-in-Chief)

**John Butler**  
(Associate Editor)

**Adrian Linacre**  
(Associate Editor)

**Leonor Gusmão**  
(Associate Editor)

# Current *FSI Genetics* Editorial Board

**Angel Carracedo** (Editor-in-Chief)

**Peter Schneider** (Associate Editor)

**John Butler** (Associate Editor)

**Adrian Linacre** (Associate Editor)

**Leonor Gusmão** (Associate Editor)

**8 individuals  
were added to the  
editorial board  
since 2013**

**Cintia Alves**, Portugal

**Charles Brenner**, USA

**John Buckleton**, New Zealand

**Bruce Budowle**, USA

**Michael Coble**, USA

**Thore Egeland**, Norway

**Rolf Fimmers**, Germany

**Peter Gill**, UK

**Manfred Kayser**, The Netherlands

**James Lee**, Taiwan

**Bertrand Ludes**, France

**Wolfgang Mayr**, Austria

**Niels Morling**, Denmark

**Walther Parson**, Austria

**Tom Parsons**, Bosnia and Herzegovina (now USA)

**Vince Pascali**, Italy

**Chris Phillips**, Spain

**Mecki Prinz**, USA

**Lutz Roewer**, Germany

**Antti Sajantila**, Finland

**Antonio Salas**, Spain

**Titia Sijen**, The Netherlands

**Keji Tamaki**, Japan

**Andreas Tillmar**, Sweden

**Peter Vallone**, USA

# Topics to Cover

- Information from Publisher's Report
- Brief analysis of articles published since last ISFG meeting in September 2013
- Impact factor & comparison to other journals
- Appreciation for Authors and Reviewers

# Number of Articles per Year

Year	Number of Submissions	Process Time	Accepted	Rejected	Rejection Rate
2011	277	15.4 wks	135	165	0.55
2012	313	14.7 wks	128	157	0.55
2013	341	13.0 wks	133	195	0.59
2014	415	12.8 wks	203	192	0.49
2015*	180	10.9 wks	80	100	0.56



\*As of 8 July 2015

**We are receiving over 300 articles per year and rejecting ~55-60% in order to keep the journal quality high and publication time rapid**

**Compared to two years ago, we have brought the process time down (13.0 to 10.9 weeks) and lowered the rejection rate slightly (59% to 56%)**

# Special Issues since ISFG 2013

- **DNA in Forensics 2012**
  - **Volume 7(6), December 2013**
  - Edited by Walther Parson and Lutz Roewer
- **DNA in Forensics 2014**
  - **Volume 15, March 2015**
  - Edited by Walther Parson and Lutz Roewer
- **New Trends in Forensic Genetics**
  - **Volume 18, September 2015**
  - Edited by John Butler



# FSI Genetics Special Issue (Vol. 18, September 2015)

Author(s)	Article Title (Invited Review Articles)
John Butler	U.S. initiatives to strengthen forensic science & international standards in forensic DNA
Titia Sijen	Molecular approaches for <b>forensic cell type identification</b> : on mRNA, miRNA, DNA methylation, and microbial markers
Manfred Kayser	<b>Forensic DNA phenotyping</b> : predicting human appearance from crime scene material for investigative purposes
Chris Phillips	Forensic genetic analysis of <b>bio-geographical ancestry</b>
Robin Cotton & Matthew Fisher	<b>Properties of sperm and seminal fluid</b> , informed by research on reproduction and contraception
Claus Børsting & Niels Morling	<b><u>Next generation sequencing</u></b> and its applications in forensic genetics
Erica Romsos & Peter Vallone	<b>Rapid PCR of STR markers</b> : applications to human identification
Peter Gill et al.	<b>Genotyping and interpretation of STR-DNA</b> : low-template, mixtures and database matches – 20 years of research and development
K. Gettings et al.	<b><u>STR allele sequence variation</u></b> : current knowledge and future issues
Just, Irwin, Parson	<b>Mitochondrial DNA heteroplasmy</b> in the emerging field of <u>massively parallel sequencing</u>
Toni Diegoli	Forensic typing of short tandem repeat markers on the <b>X and Y chromosomes</b>
Ogden & Linacre	<b>Wildlife forensic science</b> : a review of genetic geographic origin assignment
Maria Brión et al.	<u>Massive parallel sequencing</u> applied to the <b>molecular autopsy</b> in sudden cardiac death in the young

**U.S. initiatives to strengthen forensic science & international standards in forensic DNA**

John M. Butler

Publication stage: In Press Corrected Proof

Published online: June 30 2015

[Open Access](#)**Special Issue:**  
New Trends in  
Forensic Genetics**The HlrISplex system for simultaneous prediction of hair and eye colour from DNA**

Susan Walsh, Fan Liu, Andreas Wollstein, Leda Kovatsi, Arwin Ralf, Agnieszka Kosiniak-Kamysz, Wojciech Branicki, Manfred Kayser

Vol. 7, Issue 1

Published online: August 22 2012

[Open Access](#)**STR allele sequence variation: Current knowledge and future issues**

Katherine Butler Gettings, Rachel A. Aponte, Peter M. Vallone, John M. Butler

Publication stage: In Press Corrected Proof

Published online: July 6 2015

**Special Issue:**  
New Trends in  
Forensic Genetics**Mitochondrial DNA heteroplasmy in the emerging field of massively parallel sequencing**

Rebecca S. Just, Jodi A. Irwin, Walther Parson

Publication stage: In Press Corrected Proof

Published online: May 6 2015

[Open Access](#)**Special Issue:**  
New Trends in  
Forensic Genetics**Finding the needle in the haystack: Differentiating "identical" twins in paternity testing and forensics by ultra-deep next generation sequencing**

Jacqueline Weber-Lehmann, Elmar Schilling, Georg Gradl, Daniel C. Richter, Jens Wiehler, Burkhard Rolf

Vol. 9

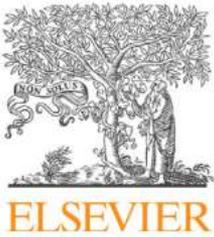
Published in issue: March 2014

[Open Access](#)

# Most Read Articles in *FSI Genetics* (as of 31 July 2015)

<http://www.fsigenetics.com>

- **Open Access** (\$2500 paid by authors) increases ease of access for people to read (4 of top 5)
- **Special Issue** invited reviews are appreciated (3 of top 5)



## U.S. initiatives to strengthen forensic science & international standards in forensic DNA

John M. Butler\*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA*

- This review article covers recent U.S. activities to strengthen forensic science including the formation of the National Commission on Forensic Science and the Organization of Scientific Area Committees
- DNA documentary standards and guidelines from organizations around the world are also included

# Summary of ISFG DNA Commission Recommendations

**Table 9**

Summary of ISFG DNA Commission recommendations, which are available at <http://www.isfg.org/Publications/DNA+Commission>.

Source (Date)	Document Title	Reference
ISFG (1989)	Recommendations of the Society for Forensic Haemogenetics concerning DNA polymorphisms	[105]
ISFG (1992)	1991 Report concerning recommendations of the DNA Commission of the International Society for Forensic Haemogenetics relating to the use of DNA polymorphisms	[106]
ISFG (1992)	Recommendations of the DNA Commission of the International Society for Forensic Haemogenetics relating to the use of PCR-based polymorphisms	[107]
ISFG (1994)	DNA recommendations—1994 report concerning further recommendations of the DNA Commission of the ISFH regarding PCR-based polymorphisms in STR (short tandem repeat) systems	[108]
ISFG (1997)	Further report of the DNA Commission of the ISFG regarding the use of short tandem repeat systems	[109]
ISFG (2000)	Guidelines for mitochondrial DNA Typing	[110]
ISFG (2001)	Recommendations on forensic analysis using Y-chromosome STRs	[111]
ISFG (2002)	Paternity Testing Commission: recommendations on genetic investigations in paternity cases	[112]
ISFG (2006)	Update of the recommendations on the Use of Y-STRs in forensic analysis	[113]
ISFG (2006)	Recommendations on the interpretation of mixtures	[114]
ISFG (2007)	Recommendations regarding the role of forensic genetics for disaster victim identification (DVI)	[115]
ISFG (2007)	Recommendations on biostatistics in paternity testing	[116]
ISFG (2011)	Recommendations regarding the use of non-human (animal) DNA in forensic genetic investigations	[117]
ISFG (2012)	Recommendations on the evaluation of STR typing results that may include drop-out and/or drop-in using probabilistic methods	[118]
ISFG (2014)	Revised and extended guidelines for mitochondrial DNA typing	[119]

Butler, J.M. (2015) U.S. initiatives to strengthen forensic science & international standards in forensic DNA. *FSI Genetics* (volume 18, pp. 4-20)

# Growth in Measured Usage by Elsevier

Year	Number of Downloaded Articles
2012	171,451
2013	190,893
2014	257,806
2015*	124,500

\*Through 8 July 2015

*Our journal is healthy and growing in use from the publisher's perspective*

Most downloaded articles in Q1-2015 (Jan – Mar):

- **718 downloads**: Børstring & Morling (2015) **NGS review**
- **568** downloads: Park et al. (2014) DNA methylation markers
- **563** downloads: Kayser (2015) **DNA phenotyping review**
- **539** downloads: Silva et al. (2014) forensic miRNA
- **535** downloads: Sijen (2014) **cell type identification review**

Special Issue:  
New Trends in  
Forensic Genetics

Special Issue:  
New Trends in  
Forensic Genetics

Special Issue:  
New Trends in  
Forensic Genetics

# Origin of Corresponding Author in 2014

<b>World Region</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>44%</b>
United States/Canada	20%
Asia	15%
Australia/New Zealand	10%
Eastern Europe	4%
South America	5%
Other or no country specified	2%



# A Brief Review of Contents Since Last ISFG Meeting (Dec 2013-Nov 2015)

**13 issues** [volume 7(6) to 19]

**393 Total Articles Published**

- 353 in print
- 40 electronic only
- **82 articles with population data (21%)**

Previously (2007-2013)

**~39% pop. data**

(301 out of 768 articles)

new population data guidelines  
released in 2013 and 2014

2013-2015

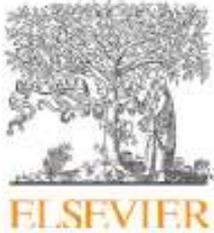
**~21% pop. data**

(82 out of 393 articles)

**March 2007 to Nov 2015: 1160 articles published in 45 issues**

# 2013 Population Data Requirements

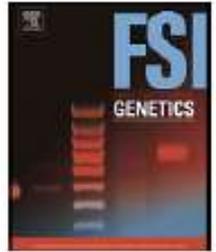
Forensic Science International: Genetics 7 (2013) 217–220



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig)



Editorial

New guidelines for the publication of genetic population data

- **A minimum of 17 loci** are required for autosomal STRs and Y-STRs, and 12 loci for X-STRs
- **A minimum of 500 samples** are required for autosomal and X chromosomal STRs, and for mtDNA haplotypes/sequences
  - at least 250 samples with Chr Y results

# 2014 Population Data Requirements

Forensic Science International: Genetics 10 (2014) A1–A2

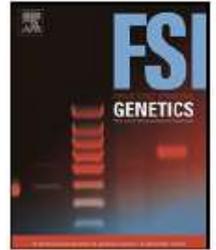


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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig)

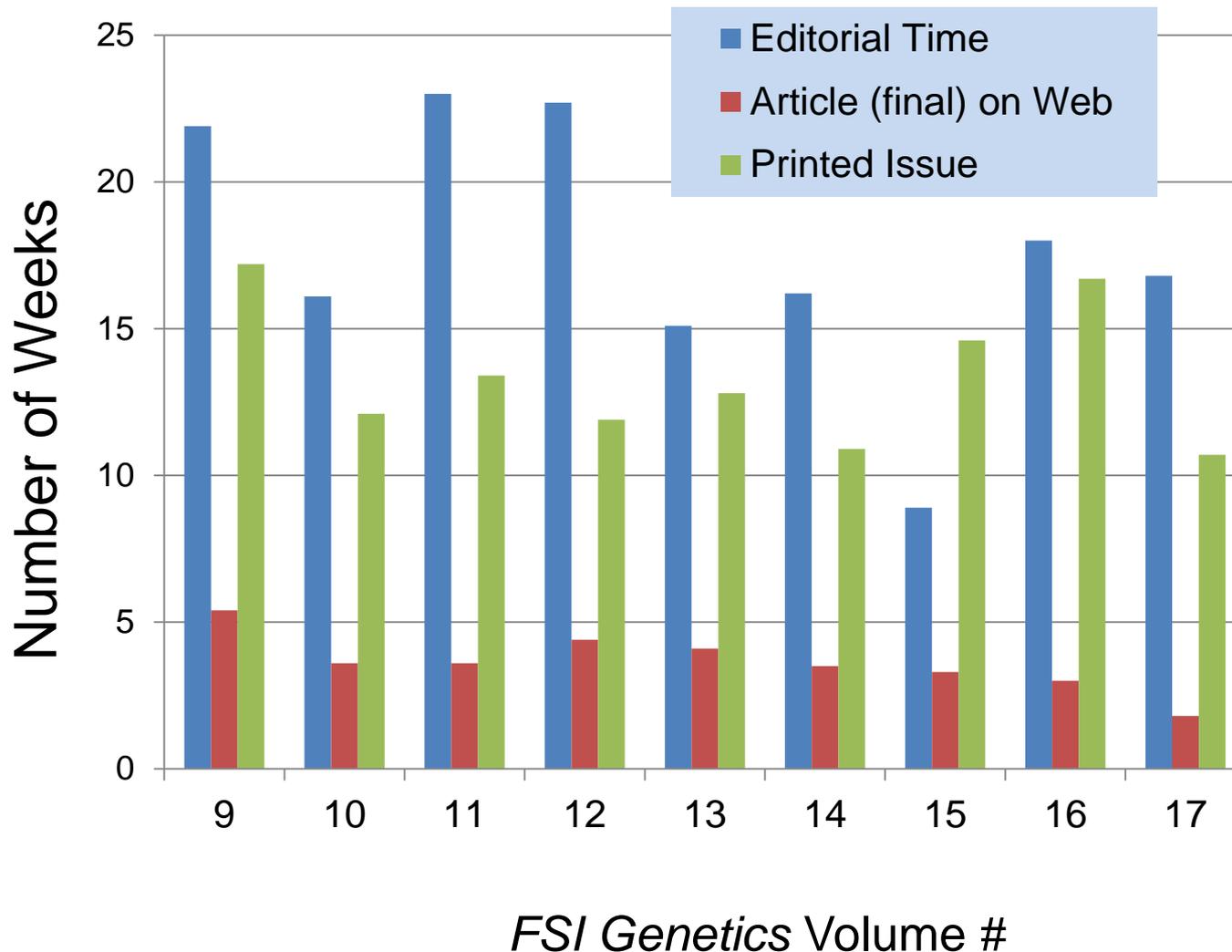


Editorial

Update of the guidelines for the publication of genetic population data

- Reinstated 2010 recommendations requiring **a minimum of 15 loci for autosomal STRs**, 12 loci for X-STRs, and 17 loci for Y-STRs (with core minimum haplotype)
- **A minimum of 500 samples** are required for autosomal and X chromosomal STRs but **decreased minimum requirements for Y-chromosomal and for mtDNA haplotypes/sequences to 200 samples** (contact editor for flexibility in total sample number with small size populations of forensic interest)

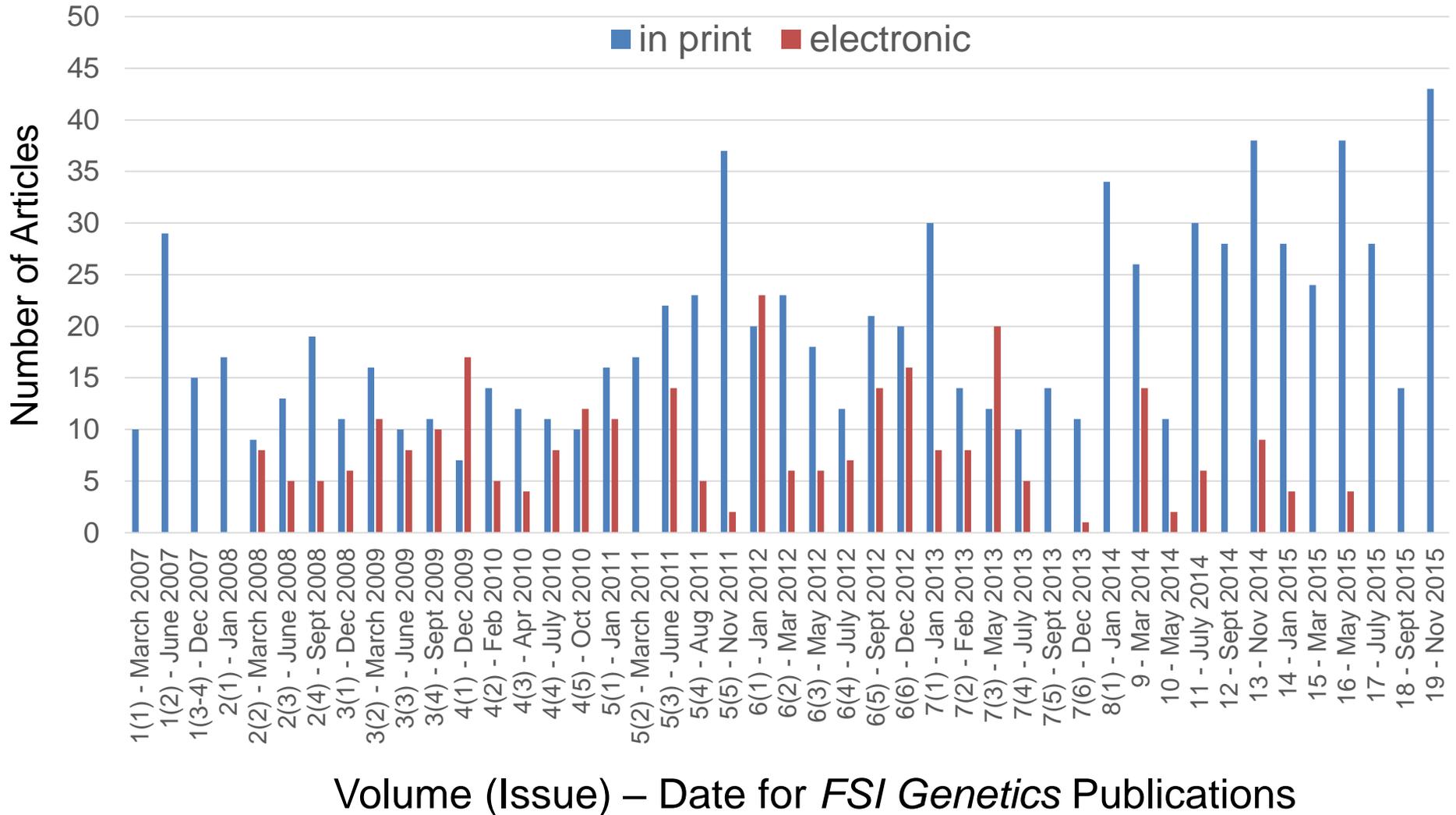
# Journal Publication Speed



## Summary

- **Editorial work/reviews:**  
~5 months  
(20 weeks)
- **Accepted articles on-line:** <1 month
- **After acceptance, printed within**  
~3.5 months  
(average: 14 weeks)

# Number and Type of Articles Per Issue



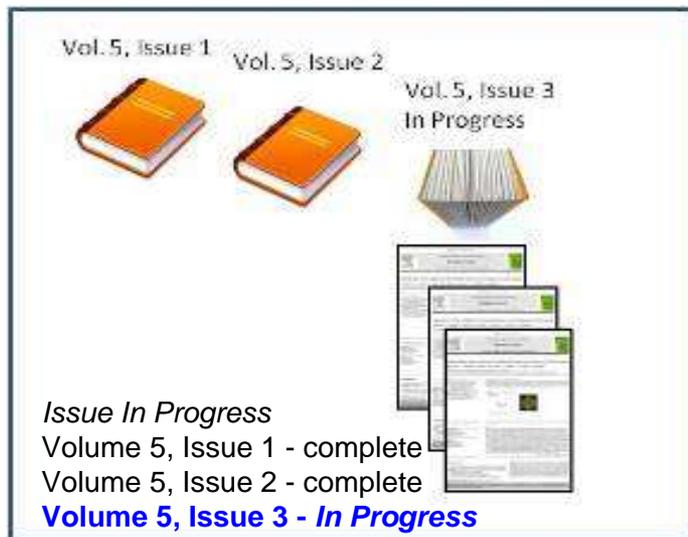
# Summary of *FSI Genetics* Articles

- **1160 total articles**
- **45 issues so far (in 19 volumes)**
  - now 6 issues (volumes)/year
- **1160 published (876 in print + 284 e-articles)**
- ***4 in press (available on journal website; as of 8/25/15)***
- **Most accepted articles are published in print (with page numbers) in less than 4 months**
  - Article-Based Publishing has increased speed...

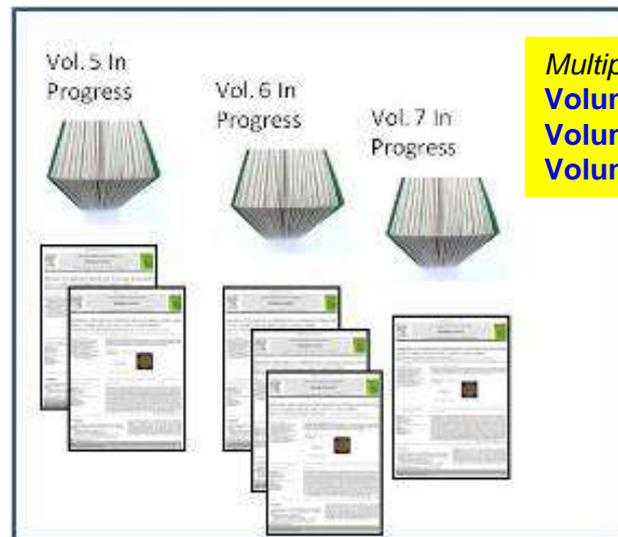
# Article-Based Publishing

- Articles are published with page numbers as soon as possible without waiting for an issue to be compiled meaning that complete citations are available earlier
- Multiple issues (termed “Issues in Progress”) can be open and filled with articles simultaneously, which eliminates lag time between printed issues

**Common Print Approach**



**Article-based Publishing**



# Types of Papers Being Accepted

1. **Original Research Papers** (Regular Papers)
2. Review Articles
3. Letters to the Editor
4. Case Reports
5. Book Reviews
6. Forensic Population Genetics (Original Paper, Short Communication or Letter to the Editor)
7. Rapid Communications

# ***FSI Genetics is the #1 Journal***

in the Forensic Science & Legal Medicine Category

Rank	Journal	2014 Impact Factor
1	<b><i>Forensic Science International: Genetics</i></b>	<b>4.604</b>
2	<i>International Journal of Legal Medicine</i>	2.714
3	<i>Forensic Science International</i>	2.140
4	<i>Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology</i>	2.031
5	<i>Forensic Science, Medicine, &amp; Pathology</i>	1.983
6	<i>Science &amp; Justice</i>	1.417
7	<i>Legal Medicine</i>	1.238
8	<i>Journal of Forensic Sciences</i>	1.160

*Impact Factors have improved over the years for FSI Genetics*

**2008: 1.367**

**2009: 2.421**

**2010: 2.877**

**2011: 3.082**

**2012: 3.861**

**2013: 3.202**

# Volume 18 Review Articles and Citations

Author(s)	Topic	Total Citations	Citations to FSI Genetics
J.M. Butler	Introduction and issue summary	14	14
J.M. Butler	U.S. initiatives to strengthen forensic science	141	8
T. Sijen	Molecular approaches for forensic cell type identification	153	29
M. Kayser	Forensic DNA phenotyping	100	23
C. Phillips	Bio-geographical	111	16
R. Cotton & M. Fisher	Sperm & seminal	102	4
C. Børsting & N. Morling	Next generation sequencing	94	22
E. Romsos & P. Vallone	Rapid PCR of STR markers	118	24
P. Gill et al.	Historical overview of STR genotyping and interpretation	177	60
K. Gettings et al.	STR allele sequence variation	110	24
R. Just et al.	Mitochondrial DNA heteroplasmy & NGS	88	11
T.M. Diegoli	STR markers on the X and Y chromosomes	248	58
R. Ogden & A. Linacre	Wildlife forensic science & genetic geographic origin assignment	63	7
M. Brion et al.	Molecular autopsy & NGS	72	0

**19% (300 of 1591)**  
citations in these reviews  
are to *FSI Genetics*

## Most Cited in FSI Genetics

[Y chromosome haplotype reference database \(YHRD\):](#)

[Update](#)

(Cited 177 time(s))

2007; Forensic Science International: Genetics; Willuweit, S. | Roewer, L.

[Publication of population data for forensic purposes](#)

(Cited 161 time(s))

2010; Forensic Science International: Genetics; Carracedo, A. | Butler, J.M. | Gusmão, L. | Parson, W. | Roewer, L. | ...

[Inferring ancestral origin using a single multiplex assay of ancestry-informative marker SNPs](#)

(Cited 110 time(s))

2007; Forensic Science International: Genetics; Phillips, C. | Salas, A. | Sánchez, J.J. | Fondevila, M. | Gómez-Tato, A. | ...

[EMPOP-A forensic mtDNA database](#)

(Cited 107 time(s))

2007; Forensic Science International: Genetics; Parson, W. | Dür, A.

[mRNA profiling for body fluid identification by reverse transcription endpoint PCR and realtime PCR](#)

(Cited 95 time(s))

2009; Forensic Science International: Genetics; Haas, C. | Klessner, B. | Maake, C. | Bär, W. | Kratzer, A.

Content provided by [Scopus](#)

# Most Cited Articles in *FSI Genetics* (as of 31 July 2015)

- **YHRD** (177 times) and **EMPOP** (107 times) are well-cited
- Journal requirements from 2010 for population data (161 times)

# Thank You

## for All of Your Reviews

**(especially the ones done on-time!)**

We plan to publish a list of reviewers in the  
January 2016 issue

*Elsevier is starting a **Reviewer Recognition Platform** for FSI Genetics in October 2015*

# Elsevier's Reviewer Recognition Platform

- Being introduced for FSIGEN in October 2015
- Will allow reviewers to access their personal review profile page showing both their 'Reviewer Status' and review history in connection to those Elsevier journals they have reviewed for
- Reviewers will be awarded a status, on a monthly basis, based on the number of reviews they have completed for the journal
- Reviewers are awarded one of two statuses **per journal title**:
  1. **Recognized reviewer** – reviewers who have completed at least one review over a 2 year period
  2. **Outstanding reviewer** – reviewers in the top 10th percentile, based on the total number of completed reviews
- Reviewers will also be able to collect initiatives such as, badges, certificates and discounts or share the public view of their profile on social media. On a monthly basis, reviewers will be sent an email including an encrypted deep link to the platform where they can check their status and collect their rewards

# Success of a Journal Depends on...

- A supportive **society**
- A proficient **publisher**
- Enthusiastic **editors**
- Responsible **reviewers**
- Active **authors**
- Regular **readers**



*Thank you!*



# FSI Genetics Journal Metrics

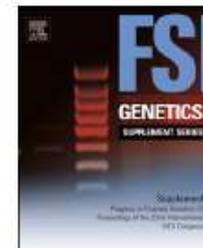
Forensic Science International: Genetics Supplement Series 4 (2013) e89–e90



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Forensic Science International: Genetics Supplement Series

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/FSIGSS](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/FSIGSS)



Some Journal Metrics for *Forensic Science International: Genetics*



John M. Butler\*

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA

Was this helpful and should future journal metric articles be published? *One has not yet been written for the ISFG 2015 conference proceedings...*